

This record is a partial extract of the original cable. The full text of the original cable is not available.

111112Z May 01

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ACTION AF-00

INFO	LOG-00	NP-00	AGRE-00	AID-00	ACQ-00	CIAE-00	COME-00
	INL-00	DINT-00	DODE-00	DOPE-00	SRPP-00	DS-00	EB-00
	EUR-00	FAAE-00	FBIE-00	VC-00	H-01	TEDE-00	INR-00
	IO-00	LAB-01	L-00	VCE-00	AC-01	NSAE-00	OIC-02
	OMB-01	OPIC-01	PA-00	PM-00	PRS-00	ACE-00	P-00
	SP-00	STR-00	TRSE-00	USIE-00	BBG-00	PMB-00	DSCC-00
	PRM-01	DRL-02	G-00	NFAT-00	SAS-00	/010W	
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FM AMEMBASSY HARARE  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8849  
INFO NSC WASHDC  
SOUTHERN AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY  
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

C O N F I D E N T I A L HARARE 001583

SIPDIS

NSC FOR SENIOR AFRICA DIRECTOR JFRAZER  
LONDON FOR CGURNEY  
PARIS FOR B WILLIAMS  
NAIROBI FOR PFLAUMER  
PASS USAID FOR AFR/SD - DWELLER, AFR/SA - CPALMA,  
NNEWMAN, AA/AFR - VDICKSON-HORTON

E.O. 12958: DECL: 05/11/11  
TAGS: [PGOV](#) [EAGR](#) [PHUM](#) [PINR](#) [PINS](#) [ZI](#)  
SUBJECT: ZIMBABWE MINISTER ANNOUNCES START OF NEW "ULTRA  
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FAST-TRACK" LAND PLAN

CLASSIFIED BY CHARGE D' AFFAIRES EARL M. IRVING FOR  
REASONS 1.5 (B/D).

1. (SBU) IN AN INTERVIEW IN THE MAY 4-10 ISSUE OF THE PRO-RULING PARTY NEWSPAPER "THE ZIMBABWE MIRROR", THE MINISTER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT, PUBLIC WORKS AND NATIONAL HOUSING, IGNATIUS CHOMBO, ANNOUNCED THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF ZIMBABWE (GOZ) HAD RECENTLY INITIATED A NEW PHASE OF THE "FAST-TRACK" LAND REFORM PROGRAM, CALLED "ULTRA FAST-TRACK", WITH THE INTENT OF RESETTLING 35,000 PEOPLE ON COMMERCIAL FARMS BY THE END OF MAY. THERE WAS NO EXPLANATION GIVEN IN THE ARTICLE REGARDING HOW THE GOZ WAS GOING TO ACHIEVE THIS GOAL, GIVEN THE WIDESPREAD DISORGANIZATION, LACK OF PLANNING AND CORRUPTION THAT HAS CHARACTERIZED "FAST-TRACK" UP TO NOW. CHOMBO ALSO STATED IN THE INTERVIEW THAT THE GOZ MIGHT NOW COMPULSORILY ACQUIRE UP TO EIGHT MILLION HECTARES OF LAND FROM WHITE COMMERCIAL FARMERS. EVEN THIS WAS NOT A FINAL LIMIT AS HE ADDED, "WE WILL SETTLE PEOPLE AS LONG AS THERE IS A NEED TO REDISTRIBUTE THE LAND."

2. (SBU) MINISTER CHOMBO IS ALSO THE CHAIRMAN OF THE INTER-MINISTERIAL COMMITTEE ON LAND RESETTLEMENT. IN THIS ROLE, AND AS PART OF HIS CABINET PORTFOLIO, HE HAS BEEN THE POINT MAN ON GOZ PLANS FOR PHYSICALLY RESETTLING THE PEOPLE ON THE OCCUPIED COMMERCIAL FARMS. IN THE INTERVIEW, HE STATED THAT THE GOZ EXPECTS THE RESETTLED PEOPLE TO BEGIN BUILDING PROPER, PERMANENT HOUSING FOR THEMSELVES AND NOT THE TEMPORARY HUTS THAT  
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THE OCCUPIERS HAVE BEEN BUILDING SINCE THE INVASIONS BEGAN IN FEBRUARY OF LAST YEAR. HE ALSO STATES THAT THE RESETTLED PEOPLE ARE TO PLAN THOROUGHLY SO THAT THEY ESTABLISH PROPER VILLAGES WITH RUNNING WATER, ELECTRICITY, TOILETS, AND OTHER INFRASTRUCTURE. HOWEVER, NOWHERE IN THE INTERVIEW DOES HE MENTION PLANS FOR THE GOZ TO PROVIDE FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE OR INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT TO THE RESETTLED PEOPLE TO ENABLE THEM TO BUILD NEW HOMES AND MODERN VILLAGES.

3. (SBU) THE MAY 4-10 EDITION OF THE "ZIMBABWE INDEPENDENT" NEWSPAPER STATED THAT THE MOST RECENT LISTING OF FARMS THAT THE GOZ HAS GAZETTED FOR COMPULSORY ACQUISITION INCLUDES SOME OF ZIMBABWE'S MOST PRODUCTIVE COFFEE AND TEA ESTATES, AS WELL AS PIECES OF LAND IN THE EASTERN HIGHLANDS OF THE COUNTRY ON WHICH ARE LOCATED TOURIST HOTELS AND TIMBER FARMS. THE LIST ALSO INCLUDES LAND ALREADY OWNED BY THE NATIONAL GOVERNMENT AND RURAL COUNCIL GOVERNMENTS. THE PRESIDENT OF THE ZIMBABWE COUNCIL OF TOURISM, PEDIA MOYO, STATED

THAT IT DID NOT MAKE SENSE FOR THE GOZ TO ATTEMPT TO RESETTLE PEOPLE IN THE MOUNTAINOUS EASTERN HIGHLANDS. SHE POINTED OUT THAT, "RESETTLED FARMERS WOULD HAVE TO SPECIALIZE IN GROWING PINE, WATTLE, OR OTHER SUCH TREES FROM WHICH THEY WILL ONLY REALIZE A RETURN AFTER ABOUT 20 YEARS."

14. (C) COMMENT: THE NEW "ULTRA FAST-TRACK" PLAN, AS WELL AS THE LATEST LIST OF PROPERTIES GAZETTED FOR COMPULSORY ACQUISITION, AMPLY DEMONSTRATE THAT THE GOZ HAS NO RATIONAL OR THOUGHT-OUT PLAN FOR LAND REFORM OR  
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RESETTLEMENT. THE IDEA THAT THE GOZ CAN RESETTLE 35,000 PEOPLE BY THE END OF MAY IS PATENTLY ABSURD. IT IS ALSO CLEAR FROM THIS SKETCHY PLAN THAT RESETTLED PEOPLE WOULD HAVE TO RELY ON THEIR OWN RESOURCES FOR BUILDING HOMES AND ESTABLISHING VILLAGES. GIVEN THAT THE PEOPLE BEING RESETTLED ARE BY THE GOZ'S OWN ADMISSION POOR AND LANDLESS, IT IS EASY TO SEE THAT THEY WILL NOT BE ABLE TO CONSTRUCT MORE THAN THE MOST RUDIMENTARY STRUCTURES, MEANING THE MUD AND WOOD THATCHED HUTS THEY HAVE BEEN BUILDING TO THIS POINT. THE LISTING OF PROPERTIES WITH TOURIST FACILITIES ON THEM INDICATES THAT THE GOZ IS EITHER BLINDLY LISTING PROPERTIES, OR THAT SUCH PROPERTIES MAY NOW BE VIEWED AS POLITICAL PATRONAGE PLUMS FOR TRUE SUPPORTERS OF THE RULING PARTY. THE LIKELY TRUTH IS THAT BOTH FACTORS ACCOUNT FOR SUCH LISTINGS. END COMMENT.

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